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Eastern Illinois University

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"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

SECTION ♦ Football gets special teams coach: page 12

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 80

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FRIDAY
JANUARY
14
2005

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Eastern gets 'Goodies'

By APRIL McLAREN
CAMPUS EDITOR

The University Board recently announced R&B singer Ciara as this semester's spring concert.

The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at Lantz Arena, and many have high expectations.

"I think it is going to be a really good show," said Joe Atamian, junior marketing major and UB concert coordinator elect.

Tickets will go on sale Jan. 18 for students and Jan. 20 to the public. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for the public.

Because Ciara is a big and upcoming name who is "blowing up," Atamian said he thinks the show will be good. He said the same happened at last year's concert when Twista made his way to Eastern's campus.

Kristen Thorburn, UB concert coordinator and senior English major, is also looking forward to the concert.

"I think the show will go over really well," she said. "We're really excited about it."

The UB did research throughout the fall semester looking for an act for the spring concert, and after surveys were filled out by students, the Hip-Hop and R&B genres of music were a common interest, Atamian said.

Ciara's name was written in by hand on a few surveys, and that was why the UB looked into getting her to perform at Eastern, Atamian said.

When UB members looked into it, she fell into their price range, which led them to contacting her.

Ciara agreed to perform at Eastern at the end of break after UB offered her \$25,000 to perform and \$10,000 for sound and stage equipment. These funds came from UB's yearly \$100,000 budget.

While the 19-year-old performer has not played at many college campuses, her publicist Tice Merriweather said her music is directed toward college-age students.

"She enjoys to perform and to sing, especially around her own peers," he said. "She's definitely excited about that."

Ciara started her career at 15-years-old with the group "Hear Say" and went on to a solo career at 16, Merriweather said. She jumped into the music business because she has always enjoyed singing.

Tracks from Ciara's CD "Goodies" will be heard at the concert.

Singles such as "Goodies," featuring Petey Pablo, and "1, 2, Step," featuring Missy Elliott, are what Ciara is currently best known for. Merriweather said Ciara's third single, "Oh," featuring Ludacris, will be out in a couple of weeks.

While the opening acts have yet to be determined for the show, Thorburn said they will be student-based acts.

"We're really looking forward to that giving them exposure," she said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ciara is scheduled to perform at Eastern Feb. 11 at Lantz Arena. Ciara is an up-and-coming artist who's best known for her songs titled, "Goodies" and "1, 2 Step." Ciara's next single, "Oh" features Ludacris, and will be out in a couple of weeks.

Defeating winter's wrath

By ERIN MILLER
CITY REPORTER

Snow, sleet and freezing rain can result in unsafe road conditions, but the Charleston snowplows help maintain city roads so motorists can safely arrive at their destinations.

Public Works divides the city into seven sections and has one plow that is responsible for each of these sections, said Quincy Combs, superintendent of Public Works.

"We don't start plowing until we have a minimum of 2 inches of snow on the ground," Combs said.

The city snowplows are given a budget to keep the roads clear and safe each year, but Combs said the city would exceed it if necessary because snow is considered an emergency situation.

"We will go over our budget to ensure the safety of our residents," Combs said.

In the past, students have complained about the quality of Charleston roads in adverse weather conditions.



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Two of the city's seven plow trucks at the Charleston Street Department on Adkins Drive Wednesday afternoon.

Keith Kulpinski, a senior communications studies major who lives in Crystal Lake, which is an hour north of Chicago, said that last year Charleston's roads weren't maintained very well at all.

"I didn't want to drive anywhere or be in a car because the snow cov-

ered the ground and I didn't want to risk an accident," Kulpinski said.

During the last week of break there was a snowstorm in Crystal Lake, and it was difficult for the plows to keep up with the snowfall,

The search is on

By JENNIFER PERHAM
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Eastern administrators are conducting an internal search to fill the acting vice president for Student Affairs position after an unexpected resignation occurred last semester.

Shirley Stewart officially resigned Dec. 31, 2004, in hopes of spending more time with her family.

"Stewart had told me in February she might think about resigning, but when I got her letter of resignation, I was shocked," President Lou Hencken said.

Hencken informed Nathaniel Anderson, chair of the Board of Trustees and Julie Nimmons, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, by a teleconference call Dec. 10 of Stewart's decision to resign.

"I was shocked to hear she was resigning and sorry to see her go," Anderson said.

Sometimes short notices occur, Anderson said, but he thought the administration did a good job in handling the resignation.

Hencken received Stewart's letter of

resignation Dec. 8, and he went to the Student Affairs staff Dec. 15 and encouraged members to consider applying for the position, if interested, during Christmas vacation.

Administrators are still conducting a search to narrow down a candidate who is qualified to fill the position. Hencken said he hopes to have the position filled by the end of January.

"I have received a number of responses of people interested in the position, and I want to make sure students and the Student Affairs staff have input on the decision," Hencken said.

Though others have responded to the opening, Stewart will be missed.

"I will miss her because she was an excellent colleague and a real champion of working with students," said Blair Lord, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

In 1998, Stewart was chosen by Hencken, who was then serving as vice president for Student Affairs, to serve as associate vice president.

In 2001, when Hencken was



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
Bill to require computer techs to report child porn

By JOEL GEHRINGER
DAILY NEBRASKAN

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb.- When computer technicians at major corporations discover child pornography on their company's computers, they face a difficult decision. They can report these instances with the risk of civil lawsuits, or they can keep their mouths shut and keep their jobs.

But a bill introduced by Sen. Nancy Thompson of La Vista, Neb., would give them just one option: Obey the law.

Thompson's bill would require all computer service providers, computer technicians and photo developers to report suspected child pornography when they discover it.

Last year, Thompson introduced a bill prohibiting the use of computers to solicit minors. The current bill would modernize child pornography law language and offer minors better protection on the Web.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia weighs in as second-fattest in U.S.

By ANDREW WHITNEY
DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA -February's issue of Men's Fitness magazine evaluated the fifty most populous U.S. cities, assigning them grades in different obesity-related categories. The result: Philadelphia is only second-fattest, trailing Houston.

Philadelphia's citizens have, apparently, as a group, dieted and then regained the weight over the past few years. After being named America's fattest city in 2000 in the inaugural survey, Philadelphia has shown steady improvement -- that is, until this year.

The city received failing grades in several categories: fitness centers/sporting goods stores, television watching, air quality and parks/open spaces.

The study offers some astounding statistics. Fifty-seven percent of Philadelphians are overweight by a large enough margin to cause health problems. The ratio of pizza shops to health-food stores is 10 to 1. The city has three times the national average of doughnut shops per capita.

CORRECTIONS

Let us know if you find a factual error in The News so we can provide the correct information to other readers.

SPRINGING INTO ACTION



LAURA MILEN/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Matt Noble, a senior industrial technology major, works on a lathe Thursday afternoon in Klehm Hall. Noble was working on a single collar for his motorcycle.

WTF?

Meth lab in restaurant

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (AP) - What the owners of The West Main Cafe were apparently cooking up at night has landed them in jail.

Police said they believe the operators of the restaurant were making methamphetamine in the kitchen on the same equipment they were using to cook food for customers.

Agents found meth in a room next to the kitchen, coffee filters with drug residue and other ingredients associated with the manufacturing of the drug, said Larry Johnson, director of the Fifth Judicial District Drug Task Force.

People eating at the restaurant at the time of a police raid on Wednesday were asked to leave, and their food sat on the tables as agents inventoried items seized from the cafe.

Johnson said the two restaurant operators were apparently cooking the drugs at night when the restaurant was closed. According to a police report, flammable chemicals also were found in the kitchen and could have ignited. The restaurant was closed indefinitely.

PEOPLE

Jackson's eyes closed

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Michael Jackson's accuser told a grand jury that the pop star closed his eyes tightly while molesting him on a bed, according to an ABC News report that quotes from transcripts of the testimony.

The boy described Jackson's alleged crimes in graphic detail, according to the network, which said its "Primetime Live" program reviewed more than 1,900 pages of testimony.

Details on the transcripts, which have not been released, were reported Thursday on ABC's Web site and quoted on "Good Morning America." A fuller report was planned Thursday evening on "Primetime Live."

The accuser told prosecutors who questioned him before the Santa Barbara County grand jury that Jackson never spoke to him during the alleged abuse and the two didn't discuss it later, ABC reported.

According to transcripts, the boy said that when he was molested, he looked over at the pop star and "his eyes were like squinching really tight."

ONLINE POLL

Are you happy to be back at school?

- A) Yes! I could not stand another moment with my parents!
B) No way. Sleeping in and partying it up with friends back home is the best.
C) Somewhat. I am tired of working a real job, but also tired of classes.
D) Not sure. We'll see how well things to at Marty's on Wednesday.

VOTE @
THEDAILY
EASTERN
NEWS.COM

COUNTING DOWN

34

Days until
Lincoln's Birthday

WORD DU JOUR

whippersnapper
1. a pretentious but insignificant person, esp. a young person

TODAY'S EVENTS

W-2 DISTRIBUTION

W-2 Tax Forms will be distributed to all employees, including student workers, today through Jan. 20.

HEARING EVALUATIONS

The Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic will be offering hearing evaluations for students, faculty, staff, adults and kids.

TUITION TRAINING SESSION

Tuition training session.

ALL DAY OLD MAIN- 2ND FLOOR

9:00 A.M. SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING CLINIC

2:00 P.M. (CATS TRAINING LAB) McAFEE 1214

THE DAILY
EASTERN NEWS

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during school vacations or examinations. Subscription price: \$50 per semester, \$30 for summer, \$95 all year. The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.

HAVE A SUGGESTION?

If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in The Daily Eastern News, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or by e-mail mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

FIND A MISTAKE?

Let us know if you find a factual error in The News so we can provide the correct information to other readers. Contact the editor at 581-2812 or mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

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LINDSEY CHOY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dr. Sheila Baker, the new medical director of health services works at her desk in her office Thursday afternoon in the health services building.

Turning over a new leaf

New director Dr. Sheila Baker, plans to make visible Health services as an all-around center

By KYLE MAYHUGH
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Sheila Baker, Eastern's new medical director at Health Services, wants to use her new position to improve the way patients are treated on campus.

Her vision for the future is one of the reasons she was hired, said Lynette Drake, director of Health Services.

"Besides the fact that she's a very strong physician, she has good foresight and good thoughts about how to advance Health Services," Drake said.

A physician at Eastern since 1999, Baker applied for the position after Joseph Wall retired last December and began her duties Jan. 4.

Baker said she intends to make Health Services more visible on campus to help focus more on preventative and chronic health issues, as opposed to "rescue care" for immediate problems.

Baker plans to have Health Services start diagnosing and treating hypertension, high cholesterol problems, type 2 diabetes, asthma and over-

weight issues.

"I know we all slip into some habits that are negative or unproductive, and I am willing to address these issues in a hopefully pleasant and effective way," Baker said.

One of her first changes is designed to improve the flow of patients as they receive care.

"It involves dividing the work in the office into the north and south sides and having the nurses and providers work in teams to see students more quickly and have fewer people involved per student," Baker said.

She said the plan is already being implemented and has improved efficiency and professionalism.

"It is nice to have people wanting to help each other, knowing that someone is available to help out when needed," Baker said. "No one feels isolated or stranded."

Students in the past have often requested Baker personally for treatment, Drake said.

"I think students appreciate her thoughtfulness and her knowledge of

"I think students appreciate her thoughtfulness and her knowledge of their condition."

LYNETTE DRAKE, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICE

their conditions," Drake said.

Baker decided to become a doctor in high school because it combined her interests of science and helping people.

She got a bachelor of art in zoology from Oliver Nazarene University in 1983 and a medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1987.

Although the transition into the job has been made easier because she already knows all the people she is working with, Baker said her new job has plenty of challenges. She often works extra hours taking care of administrative duties in addition to practicing medicine and whatnot.

"No one told me I would still only have 24 hours in every day," Baker said. "Also, Charleston weather has not cooperated, I was hoping I could be the remote medical director from the Bahamas."

Student business appreciated

When the students leave for breaks, Charlestons' businesses take a hit

By ERIN MILLER
CITY REPORTER

The atmosphere of Charleston changes dramatically when Eastern students go home for breaks, and city businesses don't hesitate to realize how important students are.

K.C. Harding, the Days Inn of Charleston's general manager, said past students and current students are what makes business possible.

"That is the thing we survive on," Harding said. "When school is not in session business drops dramatically, except during summer months when prospective students visit Eastern."

Harding said the hotel does the majority of its business during graduation and homecoming weekend.

Many of the bars in Charleston also thrive on the student population.

"Our demographic is college kids, and when school is out, we get a lot of students that live in Charleston and go elsewhere for school," said Brandon Batchelor, a manager at Stix and a political science graduate student.

Up to 600 students will go to Stix on a given weekend night while school is in session, but those numbers are almost cut in half when students leave for breaks, Batchelor said.

"The university brings a lot of revenue to the city. Within the last three years our enrollment has gone up to 3,000..."

LOU HENCKEN, EASTERN PRESIDENT

"If we get 200 people (when school isn't in session) it will be a great night," he said.

Batchelor said the bar has to decrease their business hours during the summer because of the drop in student business, but their hours remain the same during winter and spring breaks.

Scott Stewart, the general manager of the Uptowner, said the bar keeps the same hours during school breaks and that helps increase business.

"We get alumni during breaks, and the students that don't go home come here because we are one of the only bars that remain open," Stewart said.

Carl Wolff has been an owner of Gateway Liquors for 22 years and believes all businesses in town would conduct less business if the students didn't contribute.

SEE BUSINESSES PAGE 7

Candlelight vigil for MLK Jr.

STAFF REPORT

One of Eastern's fraternal organization, Alpha Phi Alpha, will sponsor the annual Martin Luther King Jr. candlelight vigil Monday.

Community residents and students are invited, free of charge, to celebrate and commemorate the life and accomplishments of King.

The annual event will begin with a candlelight march across Eastern's campus, starting at Thomas Hall and ending at the Grand Ballroom,

located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Those interested in attending the walk are encouraged to gather at 5:30 p.m. for an introductory prayer, as well as to light the candles and receive the distribution of the song participants will sing during the walk.

Following the walk, a program celebrating King's life will begin at 6:30 in the Grand Ballroom. Those attending the program do not need to participate in the candlelight march.

STU'S

Friday
Ladies Night
\$3.50 Double Well Drinks

Saturday
\$4 Jager Bombs

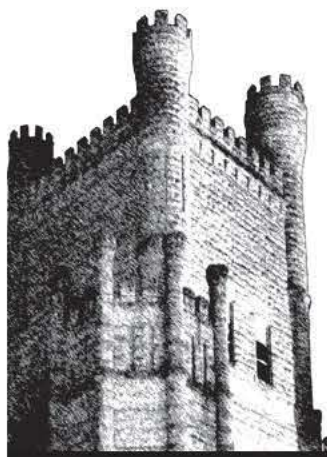
The coat check is open all weekend
it's close - it's warm

University Union Bowling Lanes

COSMIC BOWLING

Friday & Saturday Night
9:30p.m. - 12:30a.m.
Phone 581-7457

Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union
Eastern Illinois University



OPINION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005

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COLUMN

Our turn to help the less fortunate



DAVID
THILL

SOPHOMORE,
JOURNALISM MAJOR

Thill is a Monthly
Columnist for
The Daily Eastern
News.

On Dec. 26, Southeast Asia was struck by a tsunami that has to date killed more than 150,000 people. Each year the number of people killed by AIDS in Africa grows and even now, college-aged men and women are being shipped off to Iraq to fight, and possibly die, in battle.

But as the sun peaks through the clouds on a 60-degree day in January, many students are only concerned about having to go back to school. Grow up.

The world of today has grown into a war-torn cesspool where the rich get richer and the poor get forgotten. But what do we care? It doesn't affect us.

This school of thought has become increasingly popular throughout the years as the '60s faded from memory, and the '70s and '80s welcomed in decades of excess. The generation of the new millennium, our generation, has grown jaded and apathetic.

What has happened to the fire and drive that was once so strong inside the youth of America?

Have we become so desensitized to the world around us that we are more consumed by what party Paris Hilton is going to? Or is it just the lack of courage needed to face the world around us that compels us to watch "American Idol"?

The world is changing, and not in a nice way. As I look around to my peers, I find more and more a generation obsessed with image and less with substance. I fear for the future when I fail to find confidence in the group that will far sooner than expected take the reins

and lead our country. America is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. But instead of actually putting that money to good use, we spend it on a plasma TV on which we watch the news about the poor tsunami victims.

Meanwhile, most people wish they could send money for relief, but they can't afford it, you see, they just bought more crap.

I grow weary of living in a country where our leaders don't have our trust, and movie stars are given more leadership status than our actual leaders.

Who cares what a waste of space like Hilton is doing? Who cares what some regular person is doing on "Survivor"?

What our generation could accomplish is being washed away in a media-smothered society. I am sick and tired of seeing younger and younger girls wearing less and less clothing. I am sick of overhearing girls whining about how the car their daddy bought them isn't nice enough.

Appreciate what you have and achieve what you can. Our generation could end world hunger, socio-economic strife in our own back yard or even achieve world peace. But instead we will probably just sit around and ignore the world outside, hoping that nothing will ever hurt us. But, eventually, it is going to be time to act.

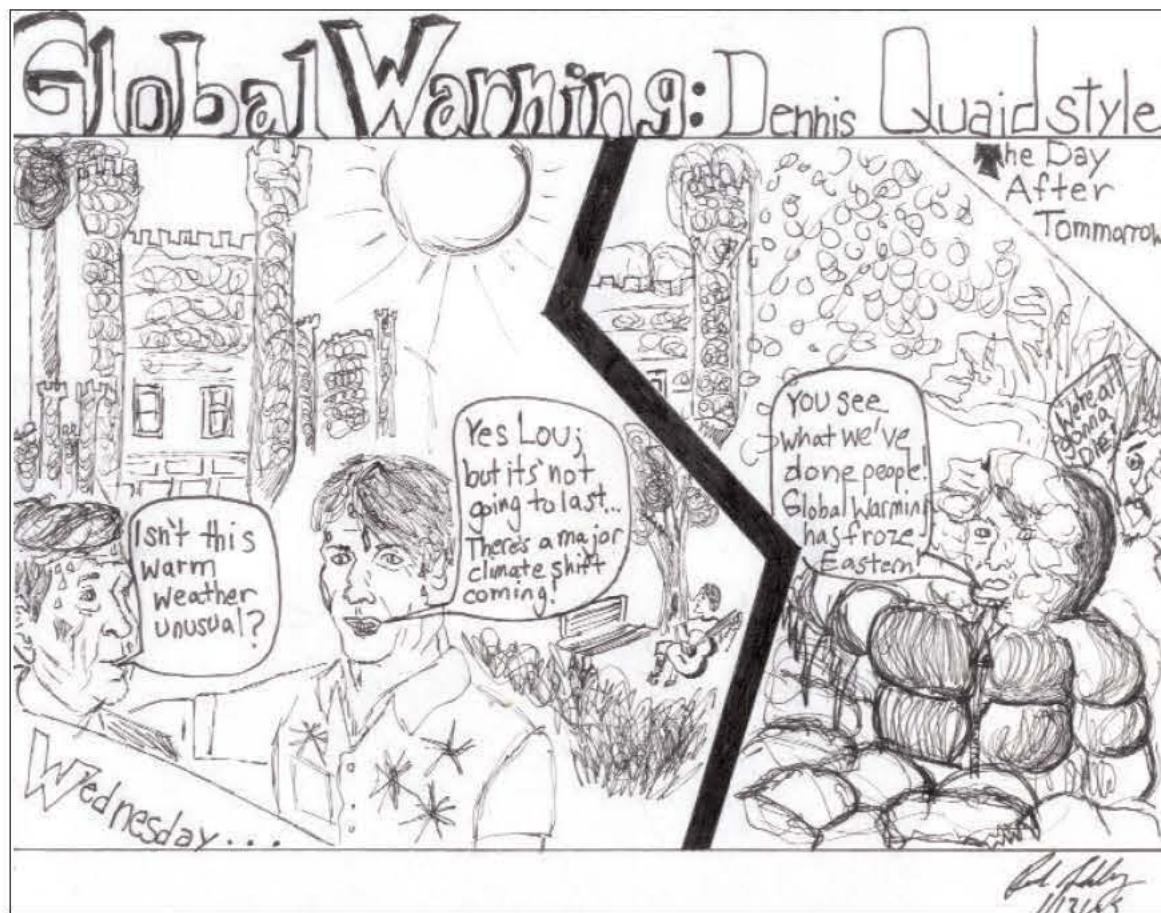
The world we live in isn't a bad one. We are blessed with the chance to go to school and achieve more.

We have the beauty of nature, art and literature. But we do not live in a picture-perfect world either.

Live life to the fullest. Have fun. But realize there are more important things than fashion. There are more important things than how much the latest rapper spent on his pinky ring, and there are more important things than the useless crap we use to fill our time.

Appreciate what you have. You could be dead, homeless or dying from an illness. But instead you are attending a university, gaining a higher education. Do something with it.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY RICH LAKEBERG



EDITORIAL

Day care proposal a plus

Not all students at Eastern are the traditional 18-to-20-somethings one would imagine. Some are older, some younger and some have the challenge of trying to take classes while also caring for a child.

This is why Student Senate's unanimous vote Wednesday night to continue research on bringing a campus daycare facility is a step in the right direction.

Students in any of the numerous organizations on campus think it is difficult to manage their time and do well in classes, but that is just the beginning for student parents.

Some of the things to be considered when attempting to construct this program would be cost and finding someone qualified to run the day care.

Part of the problem of being a student parent is economic issues. It is not easy for student parents to pay for day care while also paying for school, so making the service as affordable as possible is a necessity.

Covering the cost for any supplies, snacks and full-time employees should be the most the student parents have to pay.

When thinking of who could handle the day care, students should immediately come to mind. Students

At issue

Bringing a day care facility on campus

Our stance

It would be beneficial for both student parents and others who would be involved in making this program a reality

such as early education majors and family and consumer science majors could be recruited. This would provide experience for the access with so many education majors on campus.

While there is no question that our early education and family and consumer science majors are up to the task and would be very good at taking care of the children, a full-time supervisor would be a must.

Having a daycare on campus also would make the travel process a bit easier. Leaving a child with responsible people on campus would be easier than having to drop off and pick up the child at an off-campus location.

It is hopeful both faculty and students can reach an agreement and give student parents a reliable facility to watch their children while in class.

While it is understood that the current penny-pinching by the state will make funding for this difficult, it is a wise investment. An on-campus daycare facility would benefit a large number of students providing parents with reliable child care and education majors with valuable experience.

*The editorial is the majority opinion of
The Daily Eastern News editorial board.*

YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This space is reserved for the readers to support or criticize in 250 words or less any opinion or news story pub-

lished in this paper.

Readers can bring in their letter to the newsroom located at 1811

Buzzard Hall or email it to mmwilliams1220@aol.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate

their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be sent to The Daily Eastern News at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to mmwilliams1220@aol.com.

Seven new members step up



CANDICE COUSINS



BRANDI WILLIAMS



JEFFREY COLLIER



GREGORY PARKER



PATRICK MAHONEY



MARK BATES

By LAMON WOODS
STAFF WRITER

Student Senate has recently welcomed seven new senate members who were elected by the student body last month for this semester.

Senate speaker Ryan Berger is excited about the new members and is looking forward, along with the rest of Senate, to them getting to work.

"I think the new senators are full of a ton of potential, and I'm sure they'll do great," Berger said. "Plus, it's always good to see some fresh faces in the senate."

Those fresh faces include Candice Cousins, a junior health studies major; Brandi Williams, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major; Jeffrey Collier, a junior political science major; Gregory Parker, a freshman undeclared major; Patrick Mahoney, a senior family and consumer sciences major; Mark Bates, a junior physical education major; and Luke Ferradj, a sophomore finance major.

Senate has been traditionally known for standing up for the student body and making sure the interest and

concerns of the students on this campus are heard, as well as taken care of.

Like some fellow Eastern students, Parker said he never felt like he was represented on campus prior to being elected. Now that he is a Senate member, he said he's ready to have his voice heard.

"I'm glad I was elected mostly because I truly feel like I have a voice and (an) opinion about the things that happen on our campus," Parker said. "I want my voice to be the voice of the students that feel they don't have a voice, because I didn't before."

While some of the new senate members ran to have an impact on campus, others did it for the experience.

"Even though I don't want to pursue a career in government, I think this is really good experience for me," Cousins said. "This is my form of being outside the box."

Other new senate members feel this is the best way for them to be more formally involved in the decisions that are made on campus and to help the students directly.

"I want to help the students as much as I possibly can," Williams

said. "If students feel there is a problem that isn't being handled correctly, they should be able to come to the Student Senate and make sure that problem is handled."

One of the problems senate plans to tackle this semester includes a possible day care facility for students who have children and need a place for them while attending class. This facility is an issue the faculty is really pushing for as well, Berger said.

Also on the to-do list is finalizing changes with the shuttle bus service on campus. While the service has continued to get better semester after semester, Berger said senate is currently working on new schedules more convenient for the students, as well as new routes students have requested.

Berger said he knows these things are important to the student body, and that's why Senate is working so hard on them. Communication with



LUKE FERRADJ

RHA

Comcast SportsNet added to campus cable

By NICOLE MILSTEAD
STAFF WRITER

Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining, announced to the Residence Hall Association that Mediacom found a way to give Eastern Comcast SportsNet.

Comcast airs Chicago sports including Cubs, White Sox and Bulls games and is now channel 83. Mediacom stopped offering Comcast last semester and informed Eastern it would no longer be able to provide it. It was not until Consolidated Communications offered to provide it for Eastern for free that Mediacom found a way to broadcast it, Hudson said.

RHA has also developed a new committee to focus on finding a solution to the smoking issue.

Last semester, RHA discussed possible smoking policy changes for the residence halls. The problem is smokers are smoking too close to the residence halls and it is upsetting non-smokers.

"The discussions here have been very valuable, but a committee would be more valuable," said RHA President Lindsay DiPietro.

The RHA proposed and approved creating the new committee at its meeting yesterday. The

new committee will be headed by RHA voter Ryan Siegel in conjunction with Student and Faculty Senate. A member from each hall will be present to voice their hall's opinion.

"Our goal is to get one policy and be done with it," Siegel said. "This way it will be a university wide standard."

Hudson also spoke to RHA about Residence Hall Appreciation Night. The Residence Hall Appreciation Night is Jan. 22 in Lantz Area during the basketball game.

A raffle will be done to give away prizes, with the grand prize being a free double room as a single for an entire year. Students must be present to win.

College Poker Night is a new, all-campus poker tournament sponsored by RHA and Thomas Hall. Each hall is expected to provide their five best players to go head-to-head for prizes.

First prize for the event is an Xbox, second place receives a poker table and the third place winner will get a DVD player. The poker tournament will start at 1 p.m. Jan. 22 in the Tuscola-Arcola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

RHA meets at 5 p. m. Thursdays in the basement of Andrews Hall.

SEE SENATE PAGE 7

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Luft lands another award to place on mantelpiece

By JENNIFER ETHER
STAFF WRITER

Roger Luft, a professor and coordinator of the career and technological program at Eastern, recently received a new award in early December to add to his already crowded office wall.

Luft received the Award of Merit for his outstanding performance in the field of technology.

The award ceremony took place at the National Convention Center for Career and Technological Education in Las Vegas.

"My main job is to prepare teachers for a career in technical education (and) to teach high school students," Luft said. "I also currently teach a photography class every semester because of my background as a professional photographer."

Luft started his career in the school of business at Eastern 16 years ago.

The career and technological pro-



ROGER LUFT
PROFESSOR,
COORDINATOR OF
THE CAREER AND
TECHNOLOGICAL
PROGRAM

gram has been running for four years and was recently re-approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Luft was nominated by a professor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale for the Award of Merit.

"I'm from Montana, but I used to work at SIUC for eight years, leaving there to become department chair of the technology department at the University of Wyoming, and finding my home here at Eastern," Luft said.

Among his awards he's received is the Outstanding Service Award which was given to him by some of his students.

"When I receive an award from my

students, it means so much more to me," Luft said.

People who have worked with Luft say he deserved to receive the award.

"As a new faculty member, I've appreciated the guidance (Luft) has given me," said Julie Chadd, an assistant professor in the school of technology. "He is very supportive, encouraging and genuine in regards to his concern with his students."

Technology Department Chair Mahyar Izadi said Luft used to be his professor at SIUC while he was working on his doctorate.

"There is no difference working with him because he used to be my teacher," said Izadi, who has worked with Luft for four years. "He is an outstanding teacher, and I have even evaluated his work. And he has superior research and service in the school of technology."

Luft has decided to retire in August from Eastern and plans returning to his hometown in Montana.

Tarble Arts hosts 'After Whiteness' show

Art show conveys minorities dealing with white culture in the United States

STAFF REPORT

After Whiteness: Race and the Visual Arts, which comprises works from artists who consider themselves both "of color" and "white," will open Jan. 14 at the Tarble Arts Center.

"When people talk about race, many of them think they're talking about people of color," said Tim Engles, an associate English professor. "When you think about it, however, race can still apply to whites. In this exhibition, we're making an attempt at reversing the issues."

The artwork being presented addresses minorities dealing with white culture in America.

Suk Ja Kang, the event's curator, will include an example of her work in the

"When you think about it; however, race can still be applied to whites. In this exhibition, we're making an attempt at reversing the issues"

TIM ENGLS,
ASSOCIATE ENGLISH PROFESSOR

exhibition, an image of her body on the floor twisted into impossible shapes. This piece portrays her effort to change herself according to white society's idea of what she should be, Engles said.

In addition to Kang, other artists involved include Katherine Bartel, Kojo Griffin, Laurie Hogin and Christina Marsh.

The exhibition will run daily through March 13.

Soprano singer adds her talent to the Chamber music series

Soprano singer Emily Truckenbrod next in line to perform at Tarble Arts Atrium chamber music

By: CRYSTAL REED
STAFF WRITER

Soprano Emily Truckenbrod is to perform in the Tarble Arts Atrium during a concert as part of the Tarble Arts chamber music series.

"The purpose of the chamber music series is to present music from professionals that compliments the other per-

formances presented by the music department and other performances in the region," said Michael Watts, Director of Tarble Arts Center.

Truckenbrod sings classical music with piano accompaniment in a variety of languages. Marilyn Coles, a music professor and director of the chamber music series, said Truckenbrod performs many types of classical music from "art

"When I put together the season every year, I'm interested in a variety of performers..."

MARILYN COLES, MUSIC PROFESSOR AND
DIRECTOR OF THE CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

songs in French, German and English to arias in Italian."

"When I put together the season every year, I'm interested in a variety of performers-some instrumental, some vocal, some classical and some jazz."

This is the first time that Truckenbrod will perform at Eastern, Coles said.

Truckenbrod has been singing since she was in junior high, said Suellyn Garner, Truckenbrod's mother-in-law.

She has appeared in concerts throughout the United States, Austria and Honduras and has soloed with instrumental groups such as the Wichita Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra and the Handel Oratorio Society among others.

Truckenbrod, an artist in residence for the Oklahoma Arts Council, has taught at Louisiana University, Pella College and the University of Tulsa, among others, and she is currently a faculty member at

Oklahoma State University where she teaches voice and diction as well as theory in ear training.

She holds a doctorate of musical arts and a master of arts from the University of Iowa and has studied at the Mozarteum in Austria and the Eastman School of Music.

Coles hopes the concert has a good turnout, despite the three day weekend.

"I'm hoping that there will be enough students staying in town this weekend who will be interested in doing something to benefit their cultural life on Sunday evening," she said.

The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

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WHITE NOISE (PG-13) 4:50 7:30 10:00

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SNOW:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We will go over our budget to ensure the safety of our residents.”

QUINCY COMBS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

but the roads were drivable right after the snow stopped, Kulpinski said.

Kyle Langenfeld, a junior physical education major and resident of Centralia, said Centralia receives approximately 4 inches of snow each year.

“This is my first winter at Eastern so it will be interesting trying to walk to class during the cold, winter months,” Langenfeld said.

Centralia is about an hour south of Eastern and does not receive as much snow as other cities, but they still have plows, which keep the main roads clear of snow, Langenfeld said. The side roads, however, aren't always drivable, he said.

“As long as I can drive to Wal-Mart and go home on the weekends I am not too worried about driving in the snow,” Langenfeld said.

SENATE:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the student body will be key in resolving future problems.

“We want to work on being more in touch with the students,” Berger said. “I think we’ve done pretty well so far, but we plan to work at it and get better.”

SEARCH:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

named president at Eastern, Stewart took on the position of acting vice president.

“I believe I have accomplished much with the tremendous support of excellent staff in Student Affairs, as well as staff from Facilities Planning and Management,” Stewart said.

Stewart has served as the director of Career Services and director of the Martin Luther King Jr University Union. She also has been involved with projects such as the revitalization of the Student Activity Center and Java B&B coffee shop.

BUSINESSES:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“When the students come back, the whole town, not just Gateway has a bump (in business),” Wolff said.

President Lou Hencken agrees that bars are not the only way the student population helps the city of Charleston.

“The university brings a lot of revenue to the city,” he said. “Within the last three years our enrollment has gone up 3,000 people, and because of that you see gas stations reopening and building going on.”

NASA’s spacecraft out of ‘safe mode’

PASADENA, Calif. - NASA’s Deep Impact comet-busting spacecraft emerged from "safe mode" and was operating normally, the space agency said Thursday.

The spacecraft went into protective mode after launch Wednesday from Cape Canaveral, Fla., when it detected higher-than-expected temperatures in its propulsion system.

Safe mode shuts down all but essential systems while the spacecraft awaits new commands from controllers.

While in safe mode, Deep Impact did perform essential tasks including deploying and locking its solar panels, NASA said. The craft was receiving power and was properly oriented in space.

"We're back on (the timeline) and look forward to our encounter with comet Tempel 1 this summer," said Rick Grammier, the Deep Impact project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The spacecraft will release an "impactor" that is designed to collide with the comet and produce a crater the size of a football stadium. That should allow instruments aboard the spacecraft to study material beneath the comet's surface. The mission cost \$330 million.

JURY IN BLAKE CASE VIEWS CRIME SCENE

LOS ANGELES - Jurors in Robert Blake’s murder trial on Thursday saw the places he and his wife had been the night she was killed, including the restaurant booth where the actor says he went to retrieve his gun at the time Bonny Lee Bakley was shot.

Jurors and alternates were taken through Vitello's in groups of six, led by sheriff’s deputies and followed by Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp and attorneys in the case. They saw the secluded booth where Blake and his wife had sat. A few took notes.

Blake remained in the restaurant’s foyer during the tour, which took about 20 minutes and also covered the kitchen and men’s room.

He sat grimly under a wall of photographs of Vitello's famous customers. Coincidentally, he was next to a photo of former Police Chief Bernard Parks, who first announced Blake was being charged with murder.

At the tour’s conclusion, one of the restaurant’s owners offered the lawyers pizza. They declined.

OIL SPOTTED FROM WRECKED FREIGHTER

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Fuel oil from the Selendang Ayu has

reached a fishing community 50 miles from the wreckage of the grounded freighter, prompting new concerns about the effect of last month's spill in the Bering Sea.

State environmental workers found as many as two dozen clumps of oil _ some measuring two feet in diameter _ along a quarter-mile stretch of Captain's Bay at the southern end of Dutch Harbor, a community of 4,000 on Unalaska Island. It's the first time the oil has reached such a populated area.

Since the oil was reported to the state Wednesday, the agency has been trying to assess the threat to the local water table and area seafood processing plants, Pearson said.

The 738-foot Selendang Ayu, a freighter carrying soybeans and 442,000 gallons of fuel oil and diesel, broke apart Dec. 8 off Unalaska Island after efforts to stop the disabled vessel failed. Six of the ship's crew members were lost at sea when a rescue helicopter crashed.

Salvage crews have recovered nearly 43,000 gallons of oil and water from the ship, but most of the fuel is believed lost. Smaller balls of oil have been spotted in remote areas.

About 600 dead birds have been spotted near the spill site, said Petty Officer Thomas McKenzie of the Coast Guard.

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1/14

2005-2006 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS WANTED: The Eastern Illinois University Health Service's Health Education Resource Center is currently accepting applications for the following 2005-2006 graduate assistant positions: Sexual Health Education Coordinator, Substance Abuse Education Coordinator, and marketing, Promotions and Web Design Coordinator. The 12-month contracts calls for the selected individuals to work 19.5 hours per week preferably beginning May 16, 2005. The selected applicant must be admitted to the EIU Graduate School, meet all Graduate School Requirements for Graduate Assistantships, be enrolled and take classes during the summer, fall, and spring terms. For position descriptions, additional information, or application form and requirements, visit www.eiu.edu/~herc/gaintr, or the Health Education Resource Center, 5019 Student Services Building, 581-7786.

1/21

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Dancers wanted. Club Koyote. 40 minutes from Charleston. Make \$500 in cash a night. transportation available. 18 and over. Will trian. 348-0288

1/14

In an effort to better serve our students, the Academic Success center would like to make available a list of EIU students who would be willing to tutor other EIU students. The Academic Success Center would NOT pay these students and could not guarantee the quality of the tutoring. It would be up to the individual tutors to establish their own hourly rates. The Academic Success Center would provide the list of tutors as a service to EIU students via the web page www.eiu.edu/~success. Please contact Cindy Boyer, Assistant Director Academic Success Center, at cscb3@eiu.edu if you would like to make your name, subject area(s) and e-mail available as a potential tutor.

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1/28

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Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1203

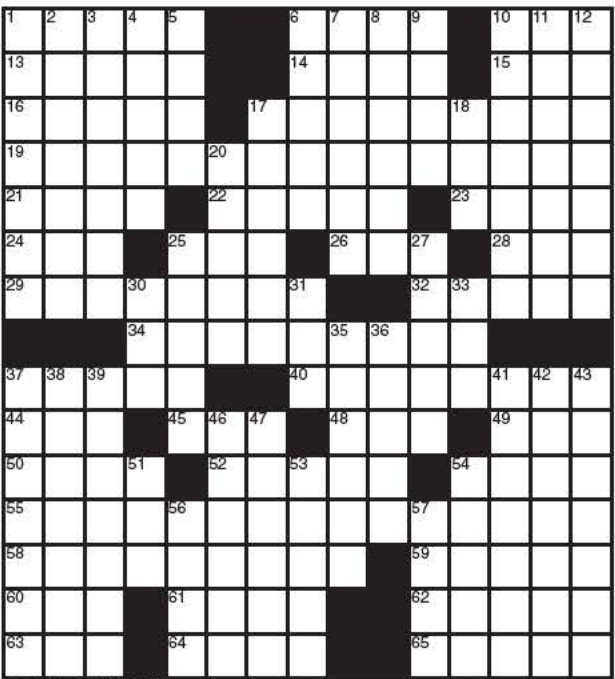
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|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 23 Accompanier of a wondrous feat | 48 Discharge letters? |
| 1 Narc's find | 24 Business card info: Abbr. | 49 Couple |
| 6 Ancient pyramid builders | 25 Stop lying, perhaps | 50 Couple's word |
| 10 Fatigued bunch? | 26 It's based in McLean, Va. | 52 Bug big-time |
| 13 "Un Ballo in Maschera" aria | 28 It may be unleashed | 54 Stoke |
| 14 Tuesday is named for his Germanic counterpart | 29 One with sticky toes | 55 58-Across and others |
| 15 Next to nothing? | 32 Mower maker | 58 Writer of 17-, 19- and 34-Across |
| 16 Golden calf crafter | 34 Third of a 58-Across trilogy | 59 Venae cavae outlets |
| 17 First of a 58-Across trilogy | 37 Break etiquette at a dinner table | 60 Monarch catcher |
| 19 Second of a 58-Across trilogy | 40 Meets, as changing conditions | 61 Per person |
| 21 Rat tail? | 44 Hoops coach Kruger | 62 Mean mutt |
| 22 Eddy creator | 45 Ready for war | 63 Old activist org. |
| | | 64 Rare bird |
| | | 65 Be affected by a blocked airway |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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DOWN

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|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Pipe application | 33 Round fig., say | 46 Correct a key problem? |
| 2 This isn't true | 35 Some collar attachments | 47 One of the Jacksons |
| 3 Site of some bombers | 36 Writer exiled in 1302 | 51 Flash |
| 4 Brown ermine | 37 Some trademarks | 53 Hose hue |
| 5 Proceed with a game plan | 38 "Walk on the Wild Side" singer | 54 Belong |
| 6 Great, to Gaius | 39 Disturbed states | 56 Top Tatar |
| 7 8-Down's tongue | 41 Affirm | 57 Artistic touch-ups |
| 8 Djiboutian's neighbor across the strait | 42 Closer to the minute? | |
| | 43 "Probably ..." | |



Puzzle by Michael Shteyman

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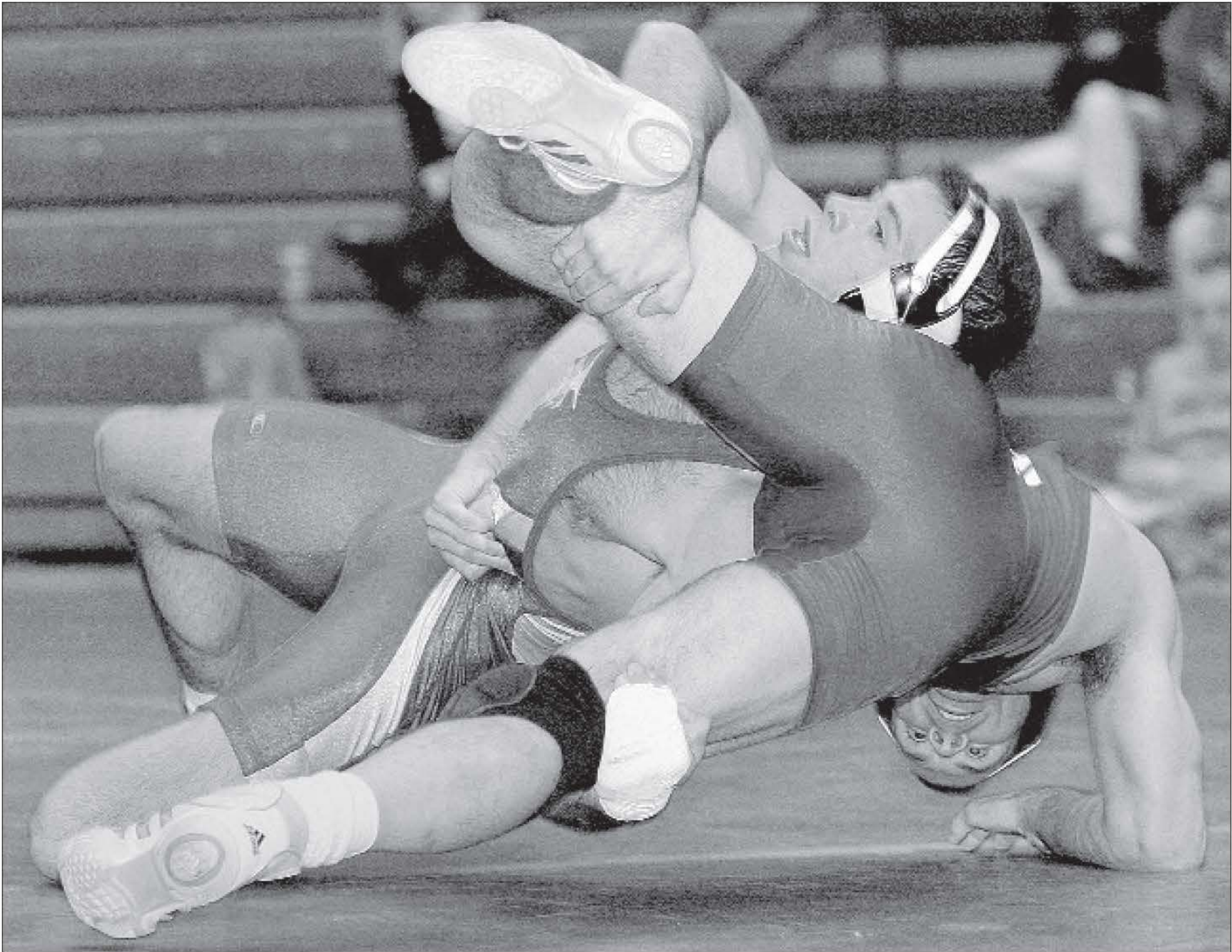
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WRESTLING



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Kenny Robertson wrestles in the 174-pound class against Indiana junior Brady Richardson in Lantz Arena. Robertson is leading the team in major decisions (4), tech falls (3) and wins (22).

Eastern to go up against five top wrestlers

Team travels to Evanston to take on Wildcats

BY DAN RENICK
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern will travel to Evanston to wrestle No. 21 Northwestern, who has five wrestlers ranked in the top 20 nationally. The Panthers (0-3) will have their hands full when they take on the Wildcats (6-0) and No. 14 John Velvez (125), No. 18 Ryan Lang (141), No. 4 Jake Herbert (174), No. 19 Mike

Tammilow (184) and No. 14 Matt Delguyd (197). Three of those wrestlers, Lang, Herbert and Tammilow, have freshman eligibility. "Coach (Tim Cysewski) is putting together a good team," Eastern head coach Ralph McCausland said. "Our schedule is based so we get those kind of feels. "We're such a young team we have to look at it as a challenge, week in and week out." The most anticipated match of the night will come at 174 lbs., where Eastern sophomore Kenny Robertson (22-8) will face off against Herbert. "Kenny" is getting to the point where even the good guys he can turn,"

"All the guy does is hold position. We wrestle kind of alike."

KENNY ROBERTSON, 174-POUND CLASS

McCausland said. "He's getting very close. Same thing with (heavyweight Pete) Ziminski." The meet will be the first time the pair have wrestled, but Robertson did get a chance to see Herbert at the Midlands Tournament, the nation's top regular season tournament, when Herbert won the meet. "All the guy does is hold position," Robertson said. "We wrestle kind of alike."

said. "I didn't wrestle very well at Midlands (where he took eighth), but I had a good week of practice." Robertson is leading the team in major decisions (4), tech falls (3) and wins (22). At 184 lbs., the Panthers will send freshman Greg Perz (7-8) to the mat against Tammilow, who took sixth at Midlands. This match could be the Panthers' best chance for an upset as Perz leads the team with six pins. The Panthers will send Chino Duran (8-9) at 133 lbs., Bob Fangerow (7-6) at 141 lbs., Shane Dintelman (10-10) at 149 lbs., Andy Mangiaguerra (0-6) at 157 lbs., Kevin Knabjian (0-5) at 165 lbs., Jason Sherko (5-10) at 197 lbs. and Pete Ziminski (4-4) at heavyweight.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

End of road trips could be positive for team

By ADAM DREMAK
SPORTS REPORTER

The Eastern women's basketball team will finish their road trip when they travel to face Tennessee State.

The Panthers have a 1-7 record on the road this season, and the end of these road games should come as a positive.

In the Panthers' 87-70 loss at Southeast Missouri State, they were out-rebounded, and SEMO was able to make more hustle plays, head coach Brady Sallee said.

Against Tennessee State, Sallee said Eastern needs to be more concerned with themselves, not just their opponent.

"We need to worry more about what we're doing," he said. "We need to focus more on what we need to do to get better as a team."

For the Panthers to get back to winning, they must improve their team as a whole before concentrating on their Ohio Valley Conference opponents.

"The reason we're playing how we are is because of us," Sallee said.

One thing the Panthers have tried to stress all year is getting the ball into the post, which would, in turn, open up the outside shot.

With their opponents focusing defensive attention on the perimeter to stop Eastern's three-point shooting, the Panthers need to get the ball inside.

And, they have had success when that happens, Sallee said.

With junior center Janelle Cazy scoring 35 points against Austin Peay and senior center Pam O'Connor scoring 18 points against SEMO, Eastern does have success when the ball gets inside.

"I believe the game is played inside out," Sallee said. "Our game plan all year has been to get the ball inside."

The Panthers also need to cut down on their turnovers, as they had 25 at SEMO and have been around the 20's in turnovers in many games this year, Sallee said.

The games when they have been able to eliminate that many turnovers have been the games they have won.

"We know where we have to improve," Sallee said. "But, knowing it and doing it are different things."



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee reacts from the sidelines during a recent game in Lantz Arena. "We need to focus more on what we need to do to get better as a team," Sallee said.

New steroid agreement with penalty

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - With some of its biggest stars under suspicion and lawmakers demanding action, Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

The agreement was hailed by baseball management and its union Thursday as a huge step forward but was criticized by some as not going far enough because the penalties are less harsh than those in Olympic sports and amphetamines were not banned.

"I've been saying for some time that my goal for this industry is zero tolerance regarding steroids," commissioner Bud Selig said.

A first positive test would result in a penalty of 10 days, a second positive test in a 30-day ban, a third positive in a 60-day penalty, and a fourth

positive test in a one-year ban — all without pay. A player who tests positive a fifth time would be subject to discipline determined by the commissioner.

"It's more for our protection than anything else," Boston pitcher Tim Lincecum said.

Under the previous agreement, a first positive test resulted only in treatment, and a second positive test was subject to a 15-day suspension. Only with a fifth positive test would a player be subject to a one-year ban.

No player was suspended for steroid use in 2004, the first season of testing with penalties.

"We're acting today to help restore the confidence of our fans," Selig said.

Since the old agreement was reached in 2002, baseball has come under increased scrutiny about steroids.

Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative known as BALCO. President Bush mentioned the steroid problem in last year's State of the Union address.

"I will be surprised if over time this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely," union head Donald Fehr said, speaking by telephone from Los Angeles.

Said St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa: "I just hope it's the Cadillac of all policies because that's what major league baseball needs. There's no doubt we have a problem."

The old deal wasn't due to expire until December 2006, but the union took the rare step of renegotiating a major section of its labor contract. The new rules run until December 2008.

WOIKE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

finding a good nickname for Lantz Arena.

New Mexico has an arena nicknamed "The Snake Pit," which is intimidating. Lantz Arena needs something in a similar vein.

Since calling it "the Den" would cause me confusion, I propose call-

ing the Panther's arena "The Lair." I know it's bad, but at least it's better than "The Litter Box."

When weighing the options for a Saturday night, why not make Panther basketball part of the plan?

It would be one thing if students had to pay to see a .500 or a sub-.500 team play, but for Eastern students, it's free.

And trust me, the games start early enough where any quality

time you have planned with that case of Natural Light won't be sacrificed.

Dan Woike, a senior journalism major, is also dissatisfied with the fan-bases of the following: this column, professional lacrosse, Girls Gone Wild and Asia (the band, not the continent). Tell him you're a fan of his or "Heat of the Moment" at woikedan@hotmail.com.

COACH:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Eastern ranked eighth in the Ohio Valley Conference in average yards per kickoff return with 17.9 and average yards per punt with 29.6.

The Panthers also ranked sixth in the OVC in average yards per punt return.

Last year Choate's Utah State Aggies averaged 22.7 yards per kickoff return, 18.3 yards per punt return and held opponents to 10.1 yards per punt return.

One aspect of Eastern's special teams Choate may find hard to improve upon is kickoff coverage.

The Panthers held opponents to just 16.8 yards per kickoff return, which ranked first in the OVC.

The Panthers also ranked first in the OVC in extra point percentage and ranked third in the OVC in field goal percentage.

"One of my goals is to finish in the top two in every statistical category in the OVC," Choate said.

Top three special teams blunders of 2004

◆ Kicker Steve Kuehn's missed extra point in the first game of the year at home against Indiana State University. The kick would have put the Panthers up four and forced Indiana State to score a touch down. Instead, they drove and kicked the game tying field goal and won the game in overtime.

◆ In the following game, with less than two minutes remaining Brandon Robinson fumbled a kickoff at Illinois State. The Redbirds took over on Eastern's 22 yard line and scored the eventual game winning touch down.

◆ George Love muffed a punt at home against Jacksonville State with a little more than two minutes remaining in the game. The Panthers were down 24 21 at the time but had just scored a touchdown and forced Jacksonville State to go three and out. Momentum was in the Panthers favor, but the muffed punt fell into the wrong hands and Jacksonville State was dancing in the end zone shortly after the blunder.

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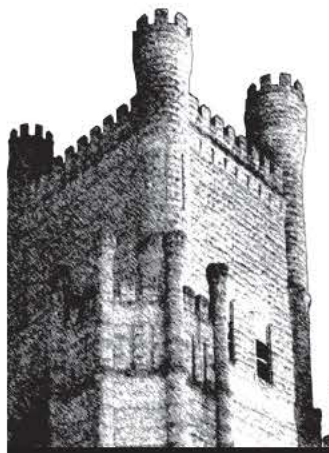
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SPORTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005

PANTHER SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY	SWIMMING AT MILLIKIN	5 p.m.
SATURDAY	SWIMMING VS IUPUI	1 p.m.
	Women's Basketball at Tennessee State	5 p.m.
	Wrestling at Northwestern	7 p.m.
	Men's Basketball at Tennessee State	7:30 p.m.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston



**FROM LEFT
FIELD**

DAN WOIKE
SPORTS EDITOR

Just give Lantz a chance

Believe it or not, Eastern students have plenty of options when it comes to figuring out how to spend their weekends.

The popular choices are obvious - a group of friends huddling around a case of Natural Light, waiting 15 minutes for a bartender to take your order, or walking house-to-house in frigid temperatures, looking for signs of a party.

Oh yeah, I suppose studying is an option as well.

But one thing many students have overlooked is attending an Eastern men's or women's basketball game at Lantz Arena.

Whenever I attend a game at Lantz, I feel like most of the student body is missing out on the experience of being part of a rowdy mob.

Before coming to Eastern last winter, I attended Michigan State.

The Spartan fans are loud, ruthless, hilarious and obnoxious. They're also a big part of why opponents dread playing inside the Breslin Center.

Now I'm aware of the subtle differences between the Eastern basketball program and Michigan State's. However, there is no reason why the Lantz seats and bleachers should be as empty as Calista Flockhart's refrigerator.

Both the men's and women's teams are better teams than their 5-9 and 7-7 records suggest.

Plus, the two teams have taken road trips to open the Ohio Valley Conference season, and winning on the road is no easy feat.

So, for either of the Panther teams to compete later in the conference season, they must take advantage of their home-court advantage - if they have one.

So far this season, the home games I have attended have featured sparse crowds. Unless the teams benefit from an atmosphere akin to Booth Library, things need to change.

Apparently, Eastern has a student-fan organization called the Blue Crew. I wasn't aware of this, but since it was brought to my attention, I'm all for it.

Next on the agenda would be

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ON THE ROAD OF HOPE

Panthers hope next road trip to be their first conference win

BY DAN WOIKE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panther men's basketball team heads back on the road looking for their first conference win Saturday, when it takes on the Tennessee State Tigers in Nashville, Tenn.

The Panthers (5-9, 0-3 Ohio Valley Conference) haven't played at home since Dec. 21, and have lost five in a row over that span.

And the Tigers (5-8, 1-1) might be vulnerable playing without senior center Rod Flowers, the OVC's leading rebounder and sixth-best scorer.

Flowers, who may be out with an injury, missed the Tigers' last two OVC games, a 93-69 win at Jacksonville State and a 79-68 loss to Samford.

"They played without him last weekend and looked really good against Jacksonville State and not so good against Samford," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said. "If he's not able to play, we're matched up better size-wise."

One Panther who would benefit from Flowers' absence is senior forward Aaron Patterson.

Patterson, who stands at 6-feet-5, is coming off a 14-point, four-rebound night in Eastern's 79-60 loss to Southeast Missouri State Tuesday. He said the team needs to get its offense back on track.

"We've won games this year; we

know we can do it," he said. "We just got to take care of the ball, penetrate to the basket and execute our offense."

"We've got guys who can score from each position, but our motion offense hasn't been as consistently effective."

The Panthers may be playing the perfect team to kick-start their offense against.

Tennessee State is last in the OVC in scoring defense, allowing an average of 81.3 points per game (ppg). However, the Tigers do have a potent offense, averaging 76.5 ppg - third best in the OVC.

Samuels said the opening minutes of the game will be crucial in the outcome.

"They've always been a team that runs in big spurts," he said. "If they start out the game on one of those spurts and we're in the hole, it's going to be difficult to dig ourselves out."

A quick start by the Tigers wouldn't help Eastern's confidence, which has been strained, Samuels said.

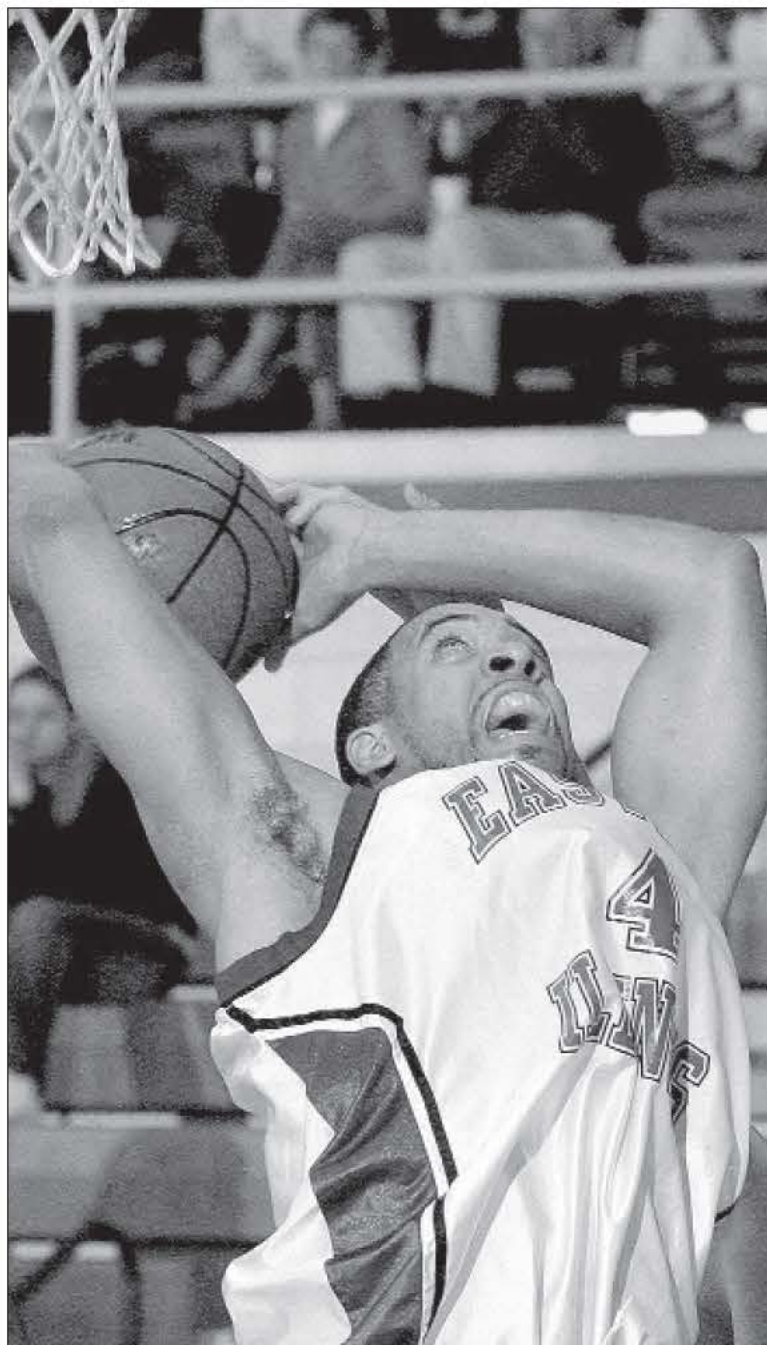
"We're suffering a little bit from our confidence getting eroded by not winning," he said. "And, we're suffering a little bit from our individual player's confidence eroding by maybe not playing so well a few games in a row."

"We have to start building that confidence back up, and a win helps that tremendously."

Patterson said he has been conveying a message to his younger teammates, in order to keep confidence high.

"I just tell them to keep working hard, to take practice seriously and to play with passion," Patterson said. "Things will get right for us."

"Once we get one win, we'll be all right."



STEPHEN HAAS/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Aaron Patterson reaches for two points during a home game in Lantz Arena. "We've won games this year we know we can do it," Patterson said of the team.

FOOTBALL

First special teams coach hired

BY JOHN HOHENADEL
SPORTS REPORTER

In an effort to correct their special teams' woes during the 2004 football season, Eastern has hired its first special teams coach, former Utah State special teams coordinator Jeff Choate.

"That was the most appealing part of the job," Choate said of Eastern never having a special teams coach.

Choate will be responsible for all six special teams units including kick coverage, kick returns, punt coverage, punt returns and all field goal and point-after touchdown blocking and kicking units.

"I believe special teams needs one coach, but the whole coaching staff should be involved," Choate said.

"He did a great job with out punt team. He had them ranked 11th in the country in punting by the end of the season."

MIKE DENNEHY, FORMER UTAH STATE HEAD COACH

Although Choate was hired as the special teams coach of the Panthers, he almost didn't make it to Charleston on time.

"It's actually kind of a crazy story," Choate said. "I had problems with my connecting flight, so I flew into Indianapolis at 2 a.m., and I didn't have any luggage."

Choate solved his luggage problems, and Eastern hopes he can solve the Panther special teams problems.

Athletic Director Rich McDuffie

said in the past couple years the glaring weakness of the Panther football program has been its special teams play. After this past season, McDuffie and the Eastern coaching staff met to solve the problem.

They're hoping Choate will help end the problem.

Last season, the Panthers had five punts and two field goals blocked.

Choate said former head football coach of Montana State, Don Reed, did a 15-year study of how many

teams lost games when they had a kick blocked. Choate said Reed found 95 percent of those teams lost.

As Utah State's special teams coordinator, Choate implemented a rugby-style punt formation, which he said worked out well for the Aggies.

"He did a great job with our punt team," former Utah State head coach Mike Dennehy said. "He had them ranked 11th in the country in punting by the end of the season."

Choate described his punt team as a puzzle.

He said he knows what type of athletes he needs to complete the puzzle, and once the puzzle is complete, the team will be successful.